A JOURNEY FROM JOPPA TO JERUSALEM, In MAY, 1751.

By DAVID FALCONAR.

With Occasional Notes.

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A JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM, &c.

HAVING ſettled my affairs in Acra, * ſo that they could not be any ways affected for the worſe by

* ACRA, a ſea port in Phœnicia, formerly the reſidence of the knights of Jeruſalem, is the

by my abſence for a few days, I took the opportunity of paying a viſit to the ſo much talked of Milk-and-Honey Land, and accordingly departed from that place at one o'clock, and arrived at Joppa * at five the next morning, where I reſided next door to one Simon a Tanner's: From thence we departed in the evening; that is to ſay, our ſecond mate, myſelf, and his highneſs prince Saleh Toby, an Arab, who

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the moſt ſouthern city on the Phœnician coaſt; it lies 82 miles North of Jeruſalem (lat. 32. 55. N. long. 35. 47. E.) and is about the ſame diſtance N. E. of Damaſcus, and near 100 S. of Tripoli.

* I ſuppoſe the author went from Acra to Joppa by ſea, as Joppa is a ſea port, lying about 70 miles S. of Acra; beſides, it would have been very dangerous to travel by land ſo far without a guide, and we do not find he had one till he came to Joppa.

who had agreed to conduct us to Jeruſalem; for, it is well known, there is no going thither without an eſcorte of one or more of thoſe Arabs, who exact a rigorous *caphar* or tax on every curious and ſuperſtitious fool, who puts himſelf in their power.

IT is therefore the buſineſs of the fathers of the Terra Sancta at Joppa * to provide ſome guide, of ſufficient authority, to protect the pilgrim from the inſults of theſe moſt unholy poſſeſſors of the Holy Land, and, even in that point,

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* JOPPA, tho' the moſt conſiderable ſea port in Judea, is now a poor ruinated town, conſiſting of hardly more than 400 inhabitants, whoſe livelihood depends on the pilgrims going to and from Jeruſalem, whom they furniſh with proviſions, guides, and other neceſſaries.

there muſt be a great deal of caution uſed; for, as the mountaineers are in continual war, * and knock one another on the head at every convenient opportunity, it is often of very bad conſequence to the poor Sion traveller, who ſuffers ſeverely in the fleſh, for the miſunderſtanding between the different tribes of theſe hell-hounds; as indeed might probably have been our caſe, had not prince Toby, conſcious of his own incapacity to fulfill his engagements, very civilly given us the ſlip

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* The mountaineers, or wild Arabs, are deſcribed to be 'a rude, rapacious rout, who always go in droves, catching all that comes within their reach, and fleeing with it to their hoards like beaſts of prey, ſparing neither life, nor any thing that comes in their way, but plundering whole countries and caravans, and murdering all that make head to reſiſt.' SYST. GEOGRAPH. vol. II. page 126.

a little way out of Ramah, and left us under the convoy of one of leſs eminent quality, who however did the buſineſs as well as the beſt prince of them all; for tho' his ſcoundrel highneſs is moſt puiſſant in his own territories, and among his own tribe, yet he knew well enough what he was to expect in any of the places thro' which we were to paſs, by the reception a brother of his met with about five days before, who was, by ſome of them, fairly ſhot thro' the body, as will certainly be his fate ſome time or other, if he attempts to go that way; ſo that tho' he bilk'd us of ſome money, yet we were well quit of him, for, in an embroil of that nature, we ſhould have come in for our ſhares, and ſtood a chance of geting ſoundly drub'd, if not ſtrip'd; tho' indeed, for the latter part, I was in no great

great apprehenſion, for we had taken care to equip ourſelves at Joppa with *dudds* * very little capable of inſpiring an Arab with a deſire of uncaſing us, and as for money and arms, they know pilgrims ſcarce ever carry any, ſo that inſtead of taking any thing from them, they are generally kind enough to preſent ſomething to them, and lay upon their heads and ſhoulders more than they are well able to bear, which indeed, in plain Engliſh, is a cudgel, and of which they are in no wiſe niggards. †

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* Dudds, a forecaſtle term, ſignifying cloaths.

† The Arabs and Turks are no where ſo inſolent as they are in Paleſtine, which renders the road between Acra and Jeruſalem very dangerous; for which reaſon Mr. Maundrel, in his journey

We ſet out from Joppa about ſix of the clock in the evening, and arrived at Ramah about nine, where we ſtaid till the ſame hour the next evening, and then mounted directly for Jeruſalem, which is diſtant from that place about ten hours journey; ſo that, travelling all night, we computed to arrive there by ſun-riſe the next morning, the exceſſive heat of the weather rendering it almoſt impoſſible to travel

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journey from Aleppo to Jeruſalem, embraced the opportunity of accompanying the French conſul of Sidon, from Acra, taking from thence a band of Turkiſh ſoldiers, for a ſecurer convoy; notwithſtanding which, an emir of the Arabs obliged them to pay a double caphar, and whatever elſe he was pleaſed to demand; 'Inſomuch (ſays Maundrel) that they eaſed us in a very 'courteous manner of ſome of our coats, which 'now (the heat of the climate and ſeaſon increaſe-'ing upon us) began to grow not only ſuperflu-'ous, but troubleſome.' MAUNDREL, p. 56, 58.

travel by day; we therefore, very reaſonably, as we thought, prefer'd the freſhneſs of the night for that purpoſe, and more eſpecially as it was moon-ſhine, and in the month of May. — Oh charming! in May! methinks I hear an untravel'd Engliſhman cry: — What pleaſure you muſt have enjoyed that night! How every ſenſe muſt have been regaled! The ſweet lullings of the nightingale! The odoriferous vernal bloom! The cool refreſhing breeze! And the whole face of that delightful country gilt with glittering moon ſhine! It muſt certainly have enchanted you! — Why, ay, I was enchanted; or, if you will, bewitch'd, to take all this trouble to ſee ſo wretched a land; for as to your nightingales, — bloſſoms, — and breezes, — you may e'en ſtay at home in your own country

try to enjoy Them: —— All the muſic I heard that charming night, was the ſhrill ſhriek of ſome poor melancholy cricket, that ſeemed to be curſing it's hard fate amongſt thoſe hideous rocks; nor were my olfactory nerves any otherways affected, than by a faint and diſagreeable ſmell of the parch'd earth; —— and, as to your breezes, —— why, yes, 'tis true, we had them; —— cool as the gleam of an oven's mouth! and refreſhing as the ſoft zephirs of a glaſs-maker's furnace! For 'twas our luck to meet with one of thoſe winds, which, in it's pilgrimage, is pleaſed to take it's way over the Egyptian deſarts, whereby it ſerves as a vehicle to tranſport the heat of the burning ſands all over this happy country; and, as this wind reigns almoſt all the ſummer, I leave the reader to judge, how agreeable it muſt be to the inhabitant, as

well as traveller: As for my part, I proteſt I was almoſt ſuffocated; ſuch puffs would come now and then, pouring down the gullies of the mountains, as perfectly ſcorch'd the face, and fill'd the lungs with fire; I expected every moment when I ſhould burſt out into a flame; but, tho' my ſmoak and ſteam did not actually come to a blaze, yet I thaw'd and melted like butter, and ſure a more uneaſy night I never underwent in my life; for not only the atmoſphere was intolerable, but the roads too were ſo monſtrous bad, that we were in danger every moment of breaking a leg, if not a neck; ſuch rocks! ſuch precipices! ſuch ups and downs! and the ten thouſand millions of tons of looſe ſtones, that lie ſcatter'd all over the roads, would make one wonder how it could be poſſible for the poor beaſts ever to pick their

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way thro' them; and yet, by uſe, they have got the knack of it ſo cleverly, that they will carry you down a deſcent, ſteeper and more intricate than a belfry ſtair caſe, without making one *faux pas:* and well for the poor traveller it is, that they are ſo ſure footed, or otherwiſe, woe to his bones! *

WELL; befriended with all theſe agreeable circumſtances, we kept *bunyaning it on* for four or five hours, till at laſt we came to a long and narrow paſs,

* 'This country (ſays Maundrel) preſents 'nothing to the view but naked rocks, moun-'tains, and precipices; at ſight of which pil-'grims are apt to be aſtoniſh'd, and baulk'd of 'their expectations, finding that country in ſo 'inhoſpitable a condition, concerning whoſe plea-'ſantneſs and plenty they had before form'd in 'their minds ſuch high idea's, from the deſcrip-'tion given of it in the word of God. Page 65.

between two ſteep mountains, comparable enough to honeſt JOHN's *Valley of the ſhadow of death*; but, as he only *dreamt* of meeting with a devil or two in his paſſage, we, too truly, had our paſſage cut off by five; and, what ſeem'd to portend us little ſatisfaction from the encounter, they did not appear to be any of thoſe immaterial eſſences, that only act on the mental part, by ſuggeſtion and inſinuation, but, good nervous, well ſinew'd ſons of Belial, who, by their looks, and the pretty little ſwitches in their hands, no bigger than one's wriſt, ſeem'd to give us to underſtand, they propoſed to inform our judgments by actual contact, or matter acting upon matter: In ſhort, to ſpeak intelligibly, they were five Arabs, who ſtarted from behind the rocks, four arm'd with clubs, and the fifth with a gun; however, they were civil enough

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not to knock us down before they bid us ſtand, but fell into a parley with our Arab guide, who, to do the fellow juſtice, really perform'd his part by us; for he ſwore, entreated, expoſtulated, and ſometimes almoſt cried: for, the point was, they inſiſted we were Greeks, and had not paid the *caphar*, and therefore ſhould pay it to them: Why, ſays our conducter, money they have none, and, as for their cloaths, they belong to *ſuch a one* at Joppa, their acquaintance it ſeems; therefore, do me not ſuch an injury, as to miſuſe *Franks* under my protection: Theſe words were accompanied with the moſt paſſionate, ſuppliant voice and geſture imaginable; and really there was occaſion enough for it, for one of them had got up a huge ſtone, that he aim'd to diſcharge, or at leaſt pretended ſo, at my head, which, I promiſe you, made

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me ſhake it a good deal: I now thought the affair began to grow a little ſerious; for, at firſt, I was rather diverted than alarmed, and had began to ſcrape an acquaintance with one of theſe rugged gentry, whilſt our captains were diſputeing the point: I had given him a pipe of tobacco, and, by ſigns, let him underſtand, I had nothing elſe worth his acceptance, unleſs he would uncaſe me, which was ſcarce worth his trouble. — In ſhort, without ſaying a word, by the help of ſome whimſical, out of the way geſtures, I made ſhift to make him laugh, and in a moment or two afterwards he went to the gunſter, their chief, and, after a ſhort parley between them, we had the conſolation to ſee them all march off, and leave us to purſue our journey. So on we jog'd 'till we came to the gates of Jeruſalem, thro' a country good for nothing,

thing, but that of being too good for the ſcoundrel race that inhabit it.--A dreary, wild, and uncomfortable proſpect of naked and craggy rocks; a ſoil as ſtony and ungrateful as their hearts.

We arrived at the city a little after ſun-riſe, fatigued to the laſt degree, and ready to drop off our horſes with ſleep; and in that plight were obliged to dance attendance at the gate for nigh two hours, 'till the *cadi* was ſtirring, without whoſe licence no ſtranger durſt enter: This was worſe than all the reſt; however, there was no remedy. At laſt came the druggerman of the Terra Sancta, with an officer from the *cadi*, to give us admittance, and away we went to the convent, where we were received with a good deal of civility, not to ſay ceremony, which, to us, was not only unneceſſary,

ceſſary, but quite troubleſome; ſo, to cut the matter as ſhort as poſſible, I very frankly told the *Padre Procuratore*, That, as devotion was not the principal motive of our journey, we did not aſſume the merit of it, and conſequently were deſirous of being excuſed from the cuſtomary farce of having our trotters waſh'd and buſs'd by the *Padre Superiore* (a ceremony I thought my horſe much better intitled to than myſelf.) The excuſe was very obligingly complied with, and after a diſh of chocolate we were ſhewn into our chamber, which was furniſh'd with two neat little beds, into which having thrown ourſelves, we were ſoon conſign'd over to honeſt Morpheus.

About eleven o'clock the Lay-brother came to ſummon us to dinner in the

the refectory, along with the fathers: Accordingly we went, and were uſher'd up to the head of one of the long tables, and placed next to the *Padre Procuratore*; but all this in the moſt profound ſilence: I could not help ſometimes laughing to myſelf, when I reflected how much that old adage was inverted, *'Tis merry in hall, when beards wag all*; for here I counted ſix and forty, ſome as big as my wig, all wagging at once, but not the leaſt ſign of joy or mirth, nor indeed any object or thing to inſpire it; for, as to the eye, the very ſight of ſuch a parcel of ugly dirty-looking fellows muſt cauſe a ſecret diſguſt, and mutual diſlike for one another's company; beſides which, the victuals, bad in it's kind, and moſt wretchedly dreſs'd, and their harſh eager white-wine, made it altogether the moſt diſagreable dinner I ever ſat

down to; and glad we were to get our diſmiſſion from it, and retreat with all expedition to our little cells; where, with the windows and door cloſe ſhut up, in order to exclude the fiery wind, we languiſh'd out the reſt of the day, 'till towards the evening, when we ventured out upon the terras, to take a view of the city from thence, which is indeed far from preſenting the eye with an agreeable proſpect, environ'd as it is, on all ſides, with bare and rugged mountains, affording no other verdure than here and there a few olive or fig trees, and ſome few ſpots of ground capable of producing a little corn; but, as for gardens, groves, rural retreats, or one ſingle agreeable walk, or any of thoſe natural elegancies, that render a country pleaſant and delightful, you may look for them in any other, but not in the

Land

Land of Judea: So that Jeruſalem muſt ever have been, as it is now, a moſt diſagreeable and uneaſy place to live in, eſpecially in the ſummer time, and not to be exceeded by any thing on earth I have ever ſeen, excepting Scanderoon and Gibraltar.

THE next morning by ſun-riſe we turn'd out, in order to make the uſual pilgrimatical tour of Jeremiah's Cavern, the Tombs of the Kings, the Valley of Jehoſhaphat, the Virgin Mary's Tomb, the Garden where Chriſt was betrayed, Mount Olivet, *&c.* all which places are huddled together within the compaſs of a caſting-net, that ſo the pilgrims, as well as their reverend conductor, may have the leſs trouble in viſiting them; for it does not ſignify a twopenny piece, whether this or that was the real identi-

cal ſpot where ſuch or ſuch a thing was perform'd; it is enough, with the ignorant bigotted herd, if you will but be ſo kind as to doze and ſtupify your underſtanding with a liberal potion of ſoporific *myſtery*. —Then any thing goes down. — The more incredible, inconſiſtent, and repugnant to the common ſenſe and experience of mankind, the nearer it approaches to *myſtery*: And with that cabaliſtical word it is that the fathers conjure you *dumb*, when you ask them how? why? or wherefore? of this, that, or t'other. Ask them how the *croſs* happen'd to lie buried ſecure and ſafe for three hundred years upon the top of a rock, where there was not earth enough to cover a crown piece? and they will tell you — a myſtery! — then gogle and turn up the whites of their eyes; and that's all the ſatisfaction you get from

from them. Our firſt viſit was to Jeremiah's Cave; or, for aught I know, it might have been Robinſon Cruſoe's, or that of the celebrated Monteſinos; but into it we went, and out of it we came: Now if any curious perſon be not compleatly ſatisfied with ſo particular a deſcription of it, he would not do amiſs to repair thither himſelf for his farther ſatisfaction. From thence we went to the Tombs of the Kings, which, tho' not in order of ſanctity, are equally worth ſeeing, as really being a moſt ſurpriſing work: They conſiſt of four large apartments, cut out of the live rock with immenſe pains and labour; theſe are all four-ſquare, and the walls and roofs almoſt as ſmooth as our plaiſter'd ones; round each cell are convenient niches, all hewn out of, or rather into, the ſolid rock, for the reception of the royal bodies,

dies, of which each chamber would contain about a couple of dozen: The entrance into this place was almoſt ſtop'd up with earth, ſo that we were at ſome pains to clear it away, ſo far as to be able to crawl in upon our bellies.* After tarrying there about half an hour, we crawl'd

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* Mr. Maundrel is of opinion, that none of the kings of Iſrael or Judah were buried here, unleſs it may be thought perhaps that king Hezekiah was here interr'd, and that theſe were the ſepulchres of the ſons of David, mention'd 2 Chron. xxxii. 33. He alſo obſerves (tho' the time of his being there was fifty four years before our preſent traveller) that the door-way was then ſo obſtructed with ſtones and rubbiſh, that it was a thing of ſome difficulty to creep thro' it; but within, the whole is ſo firm and entire, that each room may be called a chamber, hallowed out of one piece of marble, it's ſides and cielings being ſo exactly ſquare, and it's angles ſo juſt, that no architect, with levels and plummets, could build rooms more regular: So that

crawl'd out again, in order to repair to our next ſtation, that of the Virgin Mary's Tomb; this alſo is under ground, to which you deſcend by a great number of ſtone ſteps: Over it is built a large dome, and in it are continually kept burning a great number of ſilver lamps, more eſpecially round the tomb itſelf, which contains now, what it ever did, even —nothing at all; for this, which they call the *Sepulchra ſanctiſſima*, as well as the other, were erected *hab nab at a venture*, in conſequence of the dream of an old woman, the princeſs Helena, *

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that whoever was bury'd here, 'tis certain the place diſcovers ſo great an expence, that we may well ſuppoſe it to have been the work of kings. Page 76.

* The empreſs Helena was of Engliſh birth, and mother to Conſtantine the Great, the firſt Chriſtian

to whom theſe myſteries were revealed; as was alſo the diſcovery of the real croſs on which our Saviour was crucified: For, when I queſtion'd the friar, from what evidence they deduced their ſo indiſputable certainty of it's identity? he refer'd me to *The infallible oracles of dream and myſtery.* I declare I could ſcarce keep my countenance, and it was with difficulty I refrain'd ſaying to him: 'And is it then really thus? Is it then 'certain, that our future happineſs de- 'pends on the wild figments of old wo- 'men; beardleſs or not, 'tis all one? Does 'the Eternal Wiſdom indeed exact from 'his creatures an utter renunciation of 'that

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Chriſtian emperor. Many are the wonderful diſcoveries ſhe made, and the acts of pious ſuperſtition ſhe committed in the Holy-Land, of which every hiſtory of that country is full.

'that portion of it, ſmall as it is, which 'he has beſtow'd upon them? Will 'nothing but an unnatural violence up-'on their judgments pleaſe him, who, in 'the juſtneſs and exactitude of his 'works, ſeems to appeal to their under-'ſtanding for the propriety, I had like 'to have ſaid, good ſenſe of them? And 'will nothing obtain the favour of the 'Almighty, but believing the moſt glare-'ing abſurdities, or becking and bend-'ing to wood and ſtones?'

OUR next peregrination was to the Valley of Jehoſhaphat, where, it ſeems, the grand aſſizes are to be held, * and

* There is a ſhort end of a pillar jetting out of the city wall, facing the Valley of Jehoſhaphat: Upon this pillar the Turks have a tradition,

for this convincing reaſon: Becauſe, forſooth, 'tis the middle of the world, and conſequently more convenient for a general rendezvous, than if it had been appointed in Mexico or Japan: How wonderful is the skill of theſe right reverend mathematicians, who have been able to determine the only centre of a ſphere! whereas your lay blockheads have been ignorant enough to imagine it may be found in any part of it; but, this is a myſtery too, and therefore well worth any one's while to run the riſque of being ſtrip'd and drub'd, were it only for the ſatisfaction of ſeeing the earth's middle, which is a *hole* plated round with

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dition, that Mahomet ſhall ſit in judgment, and that all the world ſhall be gathered together in the valley below, to receive their doom from his mouth. MAUNDREL, page 103.

with braſs in the church of the ſepulchre,* and is viſited and buſs'd with great devotion; and doubtleſs muſt be matter of no ſmall glory to an ignorant

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* This hole is mention'd by Sandys, in his *Deſcription of the Holy-Land*, in the year 1610. He ſays, 'Towards the weſt end of 'the temple of Chriſt's ſepulchre there is a lit-'tle pit in the pavement, which, they ſay, is 'the Navel of the World, and endeavour to 'confirm it with that ſaying of the Scripture, 'GOD *hath wrought his ſalvation in the midſt* 'of the earth." Lib. III. page 132. Maundrel takes no notice of this ſpot, but mentions a Greek convent near Bethlehem, under the high altar of which, you are ſhewn a hole in the ground, where the ſtump of the tree ſtood, of which the holy croſs was made, and it meets with not a few viſitants, ſo much verier ſtocks than itſelf, as to fall down and worſhip it. That, which moſt deſerves to be noted, is the reaſon they give for founding this convent, which is, becauſe 'Here is the earth that nou-'riſh'd the root, that bore the tree, that yielded 'the timber, that made the croſs.' MAUND. page 54.

bigot of a Greek or Armenian, to be able, on his return home, to vaunt to his wife, that he had had the world by the middle! What privileges might not the ſanctified hand of ſuch a one be entitled to? I could perceive nothing obſervable in this Valley of Jehoſhaphat, but that of it's being an ugly, narrow, ſtony gully, that parts Mount Olivet from Jeruſalem, and in which it would puzzle the moſt compleat muſter-maſter to draw up a regiment, or ſquadron of horſe; much leſs, *&c.* ——

HAVING ſoon croſs'd this valley, we began to aſcend Mount Olivet, which is very ſteep: The firſt ſtation we came to was the *garden* where CHRIST prayed before his crucifixion; here they have run up a little ſort of an oratory; and, about three paces behind it, a platform, like

like a ſoldier's guard bed, for the apoſtles better accommodation while they ſlept: Now this, contrary as it is to the real matter of fact, goes down like all the reſt; for your true bred bigot will ſooner take a friar's word than an evangeliſt's: St. Luke ſays poſitively, *He was withdrawn from them about a ſtone's caſt*; but perhaps the ground may have ſhrunk ſince that time, and ſo may have brought both places nearer together.

THE grand point in view, and principal motive of our journey to Mount Olivet, was to viſit the ſo much talk'd of impreſſion of our Saviour's feet, upon a rock on the top of the mount, at the time of his aſcenſion: That there is ſomething which reſembles the print, which a man's feet would make on a ſoft ſubſtance, and, in particular, of

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two toes, is not to be denied; but, I muſt ſay at the ſame time, that had not my imagination been pretty well heated before hand, I ſhould have taken them for any other thing in nature, as ſoon as what they are ſaid to be; for, when I ſaid there was a *reſemblance*, I went as far as the matter would bear, it being a good while e're I could find the leaſt likeneſs at all; nay, at firſt, I was got to the wrong end, looking for the toes at the heels, 'till ſet right by my reverend guide, who was very buſy in rubbing his beard over them, and who, it ſeems, knew the right end better than I: By his help, and a good deal of poring over them, I came at laſt to be convinced, that they were —— not what they are ſaid to be, but an abuſe and impoſition upon mankind; for, it is but reaſonable to ſuppoſe, that had it pleaſed CHRIST, at

the

the time of his *aſcenſion*, to perform a *miracle* of ſo very extraordinary a nature, it muſt have been entirely with an intention of authenticating, or as I may ſay, affixing his ſeal to the former ones, thereby confirming the preſent in, and convincing future generations of, the verity of ſo important a point of faith, by an undeniable and indelible demonſtration of it; and doubtleſs the impreſſion would not only have been exceeding perfect in itſelf, but alſo proof againſt the injury of time, as well as the violent devotion of mens hands, which, from time to time, might have committed ſad depredations thereon. And as yet a ſtronger reaſon, let me add, that the abſolute ſilence of the four evangeliſts, upon ſo extraordinary an event, ſufficiently diſcredits the whole affair. They, who upon other occaſions of ſeemingly leſs moment,

moment, what! ſhall they now on a ſudden become ſo unpardonably careleſs and negligent, as to ſink in oblivion a circumſtance, not only highly redounding to the glory of their departed Lord, but alſo a moſt irrefragable verification of their own particular relations of him? A point, which all hiſtorians have, or ought to have, before their eyes, if ever they expect to gain credit among mankind.

FROM this mount we had a full view of the city; in particular of the ſpot of ground on which the *Temple* once ſtood, where now a very large and magnificent *moſque* is built, which neither Jew nor Gentile dare approach, under pain of death; for the Turk, who, in point of ſuperſtition, pride, and ſpiritual preſumption, lags not an inch behind either of them,

them, arrogates all local ſanctity to himſelf, by right of adoption, as being the *only* favourite of heaven; and therefore excludes, as far as in him lies, all infidels and rebels to God, not only from any favour or immunity with him in this life, but alſo moſt religiouſly — I had like to have ſaid, moſt catholickly — conſigns them over to everlaſting damnation in the next. The ſame, in their turn, does honeſt Jacob and Peter, by him and each other: And thus fools and zealots, of every religion and ſect, run the hoop together, flog as flog can. *Riſum teneatis amici!*

DESCENDING Mount Olivet, on our return home, our friar deſired us to ſtop and look at a piece of a ſtone pillar, that was ſtuck up in an old ſhatter'd ſtone wall: He ſoon inform'd us, —'Twas upon that pillar the Great Judge was to ſit at the laſt

day.* Stay, ſays I, father! Where did you pick up this piece of intelligence? He ſhrug'd up his ſhoulders, ſhook his poor empty noddle (for a very ſilly fellow he was) and replied, So they ſay.—I can't tell. —'Tis a myſtery, &c. — Oh gemini! would any one think it poſſible there could be, among mankind, knaves or fools capable either of inventing or believing ſuch ſtuff? By this time the morning was grown very hot, and we had Mount Sion ſtill to crawl up; ſo that I deſired our conductor to curtail our pilgrimage as much as poſſible: Accordingly we ſtruck directly acroſs the Valley of Jehoſhaphat, and began to aſcend that famous hill; a hill which has had more epithets, of one ſort or other, beſtow'd upon it, than it produces blades of graſs, or green leaves: This

* See note, page 25.

This ſubject of ſo much allegory and ſing-ſong, we found to be a craggy, barren, break-neck rock, not poſſible, by the art of man, to be render'd either fertile or pleaſant, but very proper for the uſe made of it, *viz.* a citadel. On this mount, king David built his fort and palace, and what was call'd the City of David, which haveing made his place of reſidence and regal ſeat, it's no wonder if he thought it the moſt charming ſpot upon earth, and on all occaſions took care to celebrate it; all good poets having the art to magnify the moſt trifling matters, and excite, in the minds of their readers, pompous or delightful images, according to the nature of the ſubject; but which would ſoon vaniſh, could the reality be once brought to confront the deſcription.—Would not a man think, in reading POPE's *Paraphraſe on Solomon's Song*, that he was got into Windſor foreſt,

Richmond

Richmond gardens, or ſome ſuch inchanting, rural retirement, when he ſays:

I charge ye, nymphs of Sion, as ye go,
Arm'd with the ſounding quiver and the bow;
As thro' the lonely woods ye rove,
Ye don't awake my ſleeping love.
Be none but gentle zephirs there,
With downy wings to fan the air, &c.

What *lonely woods* there might have been in the plains about Jericho, for the *zephirs* to blow, and the pretty *nymphs* to ramble in, I cannot tell; but am ſure there is nothing like it now; nor does it ſeem poſſible for any ſuch thing ever to have been within twenty miles round Jeruſalem. In ſhort, I cannot conclude better than with repeating again: *'Tis altogether the very worſt country I ever ſaw.*

FINIS.

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